[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

pension. He draws travelling allowance at the rates prescribed in the British Service Regulations for first class officers.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Since the policy of the Darbar is one of strictest economy or "reasonable and relentless retrenchment", will the Government be pleased to say why the Darbar indented on so costly an officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: This is a question of policy which cannot be discussed at question time.

WORKING PLANS IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

10. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: (*a*) What are the steps that are now being taken for the preparation of Working Plans?

(*b*) Are the Government in possession of the Draft Rules regarding "Simple or Preliminary Working Schemes or Plans"?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the Draft Rules *in re* simple schemes?

(*d*) Has the Conservator of Forests given or have the Government obtained from the Conservator any report stating his reasons for deviating from the Working Plans in 1095 and 1096?

(*e*) What is the cost incurred by Government in preparing the existing Working Plans?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The preparation of detailed Working Plans is held in abeyance.

(*b*) & (*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) The Conservator reports that, the deviations being slight, the sanction of the Government was not applied for.

(*e*) The total cost is reported to be Rs. 78,612.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to say if they have any explanation to offer in this Council why they did not possess themselves of these rules for the past five years, although the reserves had been worked according to them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The matter is under correspondence

IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST COMMUNICATIONS.

11. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to say whether the Conservator of Forests has sent up a separate report on the improvement of "communications" and particularly waterways as suggested by the Government in their review of his report in 1087?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to call for such a report without delay?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) & (*b*) A special report was made to the Government and it was ordered in 1915 that, as the matter would involve a heavy outlay, the existing practice of carrying out works of a minor nature at a moderate cost should continue till the State finances improved. In reviewing the Forest Administration for 1096, the Government suggested that the matter should

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